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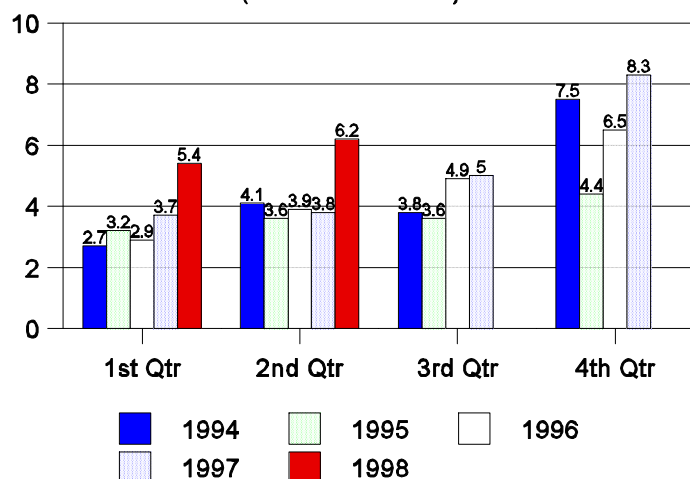
Bureau of the Census

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## ADVANCE DATA ON LARGE RETAILERS' PROFITS FOR THE SECOND QUARTER 1998

**Large Retailers' After-Tax Profits**  
(Billions of Dollars)



After-tax profits for retail corporations with assets of \$50 million and over averaged 2.3 cents per dollar of sales for the second quarter of 1998, up 0.2 ( $\pm 0.1$ ) cents from the preceding quarter and up 0.8 ( $\pm 0.1$ ) cents from the same quarter in 1997, according to advance data from the Commerce Department's Bureau of the Census.

For the second quarter of 1998, these large retail corporations reported after-tax profits of \$6.2 billion, up \$0.8 ( $\pm 0.1$ ) billion from the preceding quarter and up \$2.4 ( $\pm 0.2$ ) billion from the same quarter a year ago. The annual rate of after-tax return on stockholders' equity was 12.9 percent, compared to 11.5 percent in the first quarter of 1998 and 8.8 percent in the second quarter of 1997.

Second quarter 1998 sales were \$269.0 billion, up \$9.8 billion or 3.8 ( $\pm 1.7$ ) percent from last quarter. Second quarter sales compared to the same quarter a year ago were up \$18.1 billion or 7.2 ( $\pm 1.8$ ) percent.

These data are based on quarterly financial reports obtained from 513 corporations. The figures in this release are *not* seasonally adjusted. More detailed information on the retail trade sector for the second quarter will be published in the Quarterly Financial Report for Manufacturing, Mining, and Trade Corporations--Third Quarter 1998 which is scheduled for release on December 14, 1998.

### EXPLANATORY NOTES:

This quarter's publication contains data revised due to the reclassification of corporations by industry, and revisions that reflect respondents' corrections of data submitted subsequent to original publication.

The data presented in this report are estimated from a sample survey and therefore are subject to sampling variability as well as nonsampling variability such as response error, nonreporting, and coverage errors. Estimates of sampling variability are presented in the publication. A statement such as "up 2.5 ( $\pm 0.1$ ) cents," appearing in the text, indicates the range (+2.4 to +2.6 cents) in which the actual change is likely to have occurred. The range given for the change is a 90 percent confidence interval that accounts only for sampling variability. If the range had contained zero (0), it would have been uncertain whether there was an increase or decrease; that is, the change would not have been statistically significant. For any comparison cited without a confidence interval, the change is statistically significant. The quarterly publication includes more detailed explanations of confidence intervals and sampling variability, along with additional measures of sampling variability.

This report is available on the day of issue through the Department of Commerce's on-line Economic Bulletin Board (202-482-1986) and on the Internet (<http://www.census.gov/agfs/www/qfr.html>).

**Table 1. Income Statement for Retail Trade Corporations with Assets of \$50 Million and Over**

Item	2Q 1998	1Q 1998 <sup>1</sup>	2Q 1997 <sup>1</sup>
	(million dollars)		
Net sales, receipts, and operating revenues .....	268,955	259,162	250,845
Less: Depreciation, depletion, and amortization .....	5,581	5,540	5,270
Less: All other operating costs and expenses .....	251,135	242,504	235,729
<b>Income (or loss) from operations</b> .....	12,238	11,119	9,846
Net nonoperating income (expense) .....	(2,070)	(2,153)	(3,395)
<b>Income (or loss) before income taxes</b> .....	10,168	8,965	6,451
Less: Provision for current and deferred domestic income taxes .....	3,992	3,554	2,625
<b>Income (or loss) after income taxes</b> .....	6,176	5,411	3,826
Cash dividends charged to retained earnings in current quarter .....	1,434	1,340	1,425
<b>Net income retained in business</b> .....	4,742	4,071	2,401
Retained earnings at beginning of quarter .....	122,807	118,328	110,051
Other direct credits (or charges) to retained earnings (net) .....	(1,933)	(1,242)	(1,038)
<b>Retained earnings at end of quarter</b> .....	125,616	121,157	111,413

**Table 2. Income Statement in Ratio Format for Retail Trade Corporations with Assets of \$50 Million and Over**

Item	2Q 1998	1Q 1998 <sup>1</sup>	2Q 1997 <sup>1</sup>
	(cents)		
Net sales, receipts, and operating revenues .....	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less: Depreciation, depletion, and amortization .....	2.1	2.1	2.1
Less: All other operating costs and expenses .....	93.4	93.6	94.0
<b>Income (or loss) from operations</b> .....	4.6	4.3	3.9
Net nonoperating income (expense) .....	(0.8)	(0.8)	(1.4)
<b>Income (or loss) before income taxes</b> .....	3.8	3.5	2.6
Less: Provision for current and deferred domestic income taxes .....	1.5	1.4	1.0
<b>Income (or loss) after income taxes</b> .....	2.3	2.1	1.5

**Table 3. Operating Ratios for Retail Trade Corporations with Assets of \$50 Million and Over**

Item	2Q 1998	1Q 1998 <sup>1</sup>	2Q 1997 <sup>1</sup>
	(percent)		
Annual rate of profit on stockholders' equity at end of period:			
<b>Before income taxes</b> .....	21.24	18.98	14.87
<b>After income taxes</b> .....	12.90	11.45	8.82
Annual rate of profit on total assets:			
<b>Before income taxes</b> .....	7.63	6.81	5.20
<b>After income taxes</b> .....	4.63	4.11	3.08

<sup>1</sup>Revised.